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JAPAN

WORLD'S
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LIBRARY.

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CENTRAL LIBRARY OF JAPAN.

Japan has made wonderful progress in every department of her national life; but one thing she still lacks, and that is the institution of public libraries. Even in this great Imperial Metropolis, the heart of education and the centre of intelligence, there are very few libraries worthy of the name.

The University Library is only open to those who are connected with that Institution, while the Imperial Library is far from satisfactory, both as regards locality and choice of books. Besides these two, several could be mentioned, but they are either one-sided in their collection of books, or contain books not altogether healthy for the moral and spiritual education of our people.

Is it not a shame that a city of 1,500,000 inhabitants should be without a really good library, open to all?

A good library is in itself a little university, where the thoughts of the wise and learned may be ascertained, where the incidents of the world may be learned, and where men of research may find their materials and lovers of books spend pleasant and useful hours.

In Europe and America there is a library in every considerable town.

We have long felt the necessity for the establishment of a large library in the City of Tokyo to supply this public need; and especially in these days, when so much unsavoury and unworthy literature is read, and so little attention is paid by the reading public to real literary enjoyment of a spiritual character.

We have felt the need and prayed for the establishment of such a library, and we are now convinced that the time has come to begin one, to be completed within a few years by the help and co-operation of friends, both foreign and Japanese, the end in view being to promote the spread of Christianity and to introduce wholesome literature, science and arts. It is our earnest desire and prayer that,

by the merciful guidance of our Heavenly Father, this work for the public good, may, with the kind and generous assistance of our friends, reach a happy consummation.

The way in which we hope to establish this library may be briefly stated, as follows:—

1. To collect a fund of Yen, 200,000, the equivalent of $ 100,000. United States Gold, within a few years; Yen, 60,000. to be invested in state or municipal bonds or other reliable securities as an Endowment Fund for the support of the library.

2. While the Yen, 200,000. is being collected it is proposed to make a beginning in the Y. M. C. A. Hall in Kanda, Tokyo, as soon as money and books can be obtained.

After mature consideration we have decided to solicit subscriptions on the following basis: —

1. Those who favour the proposed plan of establishing such a library, and at one time contribute Yen, 100. or more shall be constituted Life Members.

2. Those who pay an annual subscription of

Yen, 10. shall be allowed to use the library and take away one book at a time for private reading.

3. Those who pay an annual subscription of Yen, 3. shall be allowed to use the library, but not to take away books.

4. Those who give books or other articles shall belong to one of the above-mentioned classes, according to the value of the gifts.

It is our hope, however, if the full amount of endowment can be secured, to make the library, under suitable regulations, free to all.

The following are the Charter Members of the Association : —

Rev. T. T. Alexander, D. D.
„ W. P. Buncombe, B. A.
Rev. D. C. Greene, D. D.
„ Yoichi Honda,
„ Denshiro Hatano,
„ Henry Loomis,
„ J. S. Motoda, Ph. D
„ D. B. Schneder, M. A.
„ Kokichi Tomeoka,
Daikichiro Tagawa, Esq.
Rev. W. J. White,
Rev. H. H. Coates, M. A.
„ George Fukuda,
Hidei Fukuoka, L.L. M., Dr. Sc. P. & Ad.
Juzo Kono, Esq.
Rev. Arthur Lloyd, M. A.
„ Edgar Leavitt.
„ Hyodayu Shimanuki,
Naotō Santo, Esq.
Rev. Julius Soper, D. D.
Saechiro Yuya, Esq.

LIBRARIAN'S OFFICE.

Y. M. C. A. Hall, San-chome, Mitoshiro-cho,
Kanda, Tokyo.

MANAGER.

Rev. George Fukuda,
No. 102 Yodobashi-machi, Toyotama-gun, Tokyo.

TREASURERS.

Rev. H. H. Coates,
No. 16 Tatsuoka cho, Hongo, Tokyo.

Rev. H. Shimanuki,
No. 7 Roku-chome, Fujimi-cho, Kojimachi ku, Tokyo.

Rev. W. J. White,
No 6 Akashi-cho, Kyobashi-ku, Tokyo

At a meeting of the promotors of this Library, held at the Y. M. C. A. Hall, on the 17th and 27th of June, the following Constitution was adopted : —

Article I. NAME.

This Library shall be called "The Central Library of Japan."

Article II. OBJECT.

Its object is to collect wholesome and useful books, provide conveniences for reading, and, as far as possible, help in promoting the welfare of society.

Article III. MAINTENANCE.

This Library shall be supported by an Endowment Fund, and contributions of money, books, etc., made from time to time.

Article IV. MEMBERSHIP.

1. Any one who subscribes to the principles of this Library may be proposed for membership by one of the Charter members.

2. The membership shall be divided into the four following classes : —

(a) Honorary Life Members,—those elected by the Council in special cases.

(b) Life Members,—those who contribute Yen, 100. or more at one time.

(c) Active Members,—those who contribute Yen, 10. annually. These shall have the privilege of taking books away from the Library for the purpose of private reading ; but not more than one

book shall be taken out at a time by any one member.

(d) Associate Members,—those who contribute Yen, 3. annually. These shall he allowed to use the books and papers of the Library, but not to take them from the building. Associate Members shall have no voice in the management of the Library.

3. Those who give books, or other artieles, shall be admitted into one of the afore-mentioned classes, according to the value of their contributions.

Article V. VOTING MEMBERS.

The Life Members and the Active Members shall be the *voting* Members of the Association.

Article VI. OFFICERS AND OFFICIAL MEETINGS.

The following officers shall be appointed to carry out the objects aimed at in establishing this Library, and to transact all business connected with the same, viz: —

1. Twenty-five Councillors, with one Librarian.
2. The Council shall be composed as follows:—

(a) Charter Members. (b) Such Honorary, Life Members and Active Members as may be elected by the *voting* Members of the Association.

3. The Librarian shall be appointed by the Council, whose duty shall be to superintend the Library and manage the business connected with it.

4. There shall be regular and special meetings of the Council from time to time, to be provided for in the By-laws, to examine and oversee the work of the Library.

ARTICLE VII. BY-LAWS.

By-laws not inconsistent with this Constitution may be proposed and adopted at any regular meeting of the Association, or at any special meeting called for the purpose of considering the same.

SUBSCRIPTION FORM.

I subscribe to the principles of the Central Library and hereby ask to be admitted to Membership. I enclose a contribution of——Yen:

(Date) (Name)

(Address)

To the Central Library, Tokyo.